To add to this a kind of infection had caught hold of the cardamom plants and most of the estates were already in a dying condition. As a means of reviving the cardamom industry, Government should devise measures for combating this disease and also order the assignment of lands to cardamom cultivators for erecting buildings, store-houses etc., and for their habitations.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Anumanthakudi Mira Rowther, you ask that greater facilities be given for registry of cardamom lands and that they should be given at reduced prices. These cardamom lands are very valuable lands, excellent lands, and Government will not be justified in selling them below their true value especially as we find these lands are all being taken up by non-Travancoreans from British Districts and Madura. Another difficulty is, these people being British Indian subjects, leave their taxes unpaid and go away from Travancore limits to British India and consequently Government find it impossible to realise their dues.

Another difficulty is that the Forest Department find it difficult to exploit forests and derive full benefit from them on account of the cardamom plantations. The Government have decided, for sufficient reason, to restrict registries here until complete communications are opened up in these areas.

As regards the Urumpikara reserve the question of its disafforestation is waiting until such time as I can go up and make a personal inspection of the reserves.

37. Means of communication in the eastern part of the Tiruvalla taluk.

MR. K. N. NILAKANTA KAIMAL (*Member, Tiruvalla taluk, Group I*) said that there were only 32 miles of Sirkar roads in the eastern parts of the Tiruvalla taluk, while the ryots' roads under departmental maintenance measured only about 80 miles. There would be ample facilities of communication in the locality if 30 more miles of roads were taken over for departmental maintenance. The roads that were to be taken over for maintenance were :—

(1) Jacob Road (Vaipur-Kottangal) 3 miles ;
(2) the road from Parakadavu to the junction of the Jacob road with the P. C. road.
(3) Mallapally-Turuthikad road ;
(4) the road from Kunnatanam to Nedungadapally.
(5) the road from Vayipur to Perumpetti market.
(6) the road from Punnaveli to Vaipur.

The member next stated that the department was not devoting proper attention to the construction of bridges and culverts on the ryots' roads or to their maintenance. The allotment for the maintenance of the roads might be raised to Rs. 250 per mile.

So far as rivers were concerned, the department had to take up at least one of the four bridges, at Mallapally, Vallankulam, Kozhenchery and Ranni. The Vallankulam bridge should be taken up first, failing which the Mallapally bridge should be taken up. The member also made reference to the construction of the Tiruvalla Market Canal.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Nilakanta Kymal, in the matter of the Tiruvalla market canal an estimate for Rs. 2,400 was sanctioned on the 4th of this month. There is a provision of Rs. 2,000 for that purpose and the work has to be done during the year 1103.

In regard to the roads in question, I will have them referred to the Chief Engineer. I will ask the Chief Engineer to go and inspect these places.

MEMBER : I will also accompany him.

DEWAN : As regards the Mallapally-Poovanakatavu bridge, the Chief Engineer has asked the Executive Engineer to submit an estimate which, when he receives it, he will scrutinise and go into the matter. The Chief Engineer visited the place only on the 16th Vrischikam, just two months ago.

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